



AUSTRALIAN NURSES MEMORIAL CENTRE

**Welcome to the Winter
2024 edition of the
Australian Nurses
Memorial Centre's
newsletter.**

Scholarship Awards Night March 2024

On March 7th this year, the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre (ANMC) held its Scholarship Awards Night. The evening is the highlight of the ANMC calendar each year and allows all present to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our award winners.

The event commenced in the Atrium of the Fawkner Towers with drinks and delicious finger food. This part of the evening allowed our newest scholarship winners to meet and mingle with our donors and members and to get to know each other.

The event then moved to the Centre and began with a warm welcome from our President, Dr. Elizabeth Lavender, highlighting the academic excellence of this year's winners and the importance of the ANMC legacy and mission to further postgraduate nursing education.

This year, we were honoured to award scholarships to 15 outstanding nurses from all over Australia who spoke eloquently and proudly about their projects and plans to improve health care. The evening was full of joy and passion and was happily celebrated by all who attended. Several of our winners and their families and friends joined the celebrations via the Centre's state-of-the-art audio-visual facilities.

The evening concluded with heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, whose contributions make these scholarships possible. The Scholarship Awards Night was a memorable celebration of the commitment of nurses and midwives to further their education and a reminder of the bright future that lies ahead for our professions. We look forward to witnessing their continued success and contributions to the community while we encourage a new batch of applicants to take their place in 2025.



ANMC Scholars 2024

Back row: Taylor Ward, Madeleine McDonough, Katherine Hepper, Lani Hewitt, Jayne Dicketts, Angela Damm, Greg van Popering, Harmanbeer Singh, Cassandra Kennan
Front row: Kaylenne Byrne, Pieta Shakes, Abigail Andrews, Joanne Burton, Fiona Hildebrand, Tory Ramsden



2025 Scholarship Round Now Open with a New Online Application Process

We are pleased to announce that the scholarship application round opened on 1st July. This year, we are introducing a new, fully online application process to make applying for scholarships more accessible and convenient for everyone.

What's New?

- Fully Online Application: No more paperwork! Submit your scholarship applications easily through our user-friendly online portal.
- Streamlined Process: The new system is designed to be intuitive and efficient, allowing you to complete your application in less time.
- 24/7 Access: Apply anytime, anywhere. The online portal is available 24/7, so you can work on your application at your own pace.

How to Apply:

- Visit our website and become a member if you have not done so already. Remember to complete the ANMC membership form and email to us.
- Go to scholarship tab and read all the relevant information and criteria.
- Select and complete the appropriate application form, Coursework or Research.
- Review your application ensuring you have uploaded all the necessary documents and submit before 31st August.

We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to receiving your applications. For any questions or assistance, please contact our office via email: admin@anmc.org.au.

Click here to view scholarship information [ANMC Scholarships](#)

ANMC Annual ANZAC Commemorative Service 21st April 2024

The 2024 ANZAC Day Commemorative Service was held on a fine autumn day and again was a very solemn but uplifting service. The Keytones Choir supported the occasion with moving renditions of the Captive Hymn and Like A River. Prayers and blessing were delivered by the Reverend John Baldock, Vicar, Christ Church, South Yarra. Ms Nina Taylor, Member for Albert Park representing the Minister for Veterans gave a short well-informed address. The support of the Catafalque party, 5/6 RVR Charlie Company, Guard Commander Sgt Troy McCann, Guards Private Elise Scott, Private Matilda Kidd, Private Sam White, Private Patrick McAlany-Mathews and Piper Private Kirsty Kirsch is acknowledged. Reading of the Bangka Island nurses' names was delivered by Amelia Banks and Issy Hunt representing Melbourne Girls Grammar and Ms Barbara Green, niece of Evelyn King, read the names of the Centaur nurses. The Ode was recited by Pru Cox representing Colonel Jan McCarthy (Ret) Returned Nurses RSL Sub-branch.

The ceremony was followed by afternoon tea and an excellent presentation by our guest speaker, ANMC Vivian Bullwinkel 2021 Scholar, Dr Stephanie Sprogis. We were very pleased that so many people were able to attend the service and Stephanie's presentation. It is always a pleasure to learn about the research undertaken by our scholarship recipients and the impact it is having on nursing practice and patient care. It is also a pleasure to catch up with so many friends over a cup of tea.



Sinking of The Centaur Commemorative Service

On 16 May the President, Dr Elizabeth Lavendar and Centre Manager, Ms Liz Allwood attended the annual memorial ceremony of the Sinking of the Centaur in The Sanctuary in the Shrine of Remembrance. A wreath was laid on behalf of the ANMC. Ms Arlene Bennett, member of the ANMC History and Heritage Committee, was also in attendance.



83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete

The Service was held in the Second World War Forecourt, Shrine of Remembrance on Saturday 25th May. This service remembers the men and women from Australia and Greece who fought and fell in the Battle of Crete. The President attended and laid a wreath on behalf of the ANMC.

Dr Helen Hamilton Lecture at the ANMC

On 1st June Dr Helen Hamilton gave an excellent paper entitled 'Patricia Violet Slater: A Remarkable Leader.' It was based on her PhD and provided an analysis of Pat's extraordinary contribution to the development of tertiary nursing education in Australia. It was well attended by twenty people in person and at least five on zoom. Several of the attendees studied at the Australian College of Nursing (later part of Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, School of Nursing) where Pat had been Head of School. There was much discussion and reminiscing over afternoon tea.



A Symphony of Survival: Remembering the Vocal Orchestra

On 14th June, the ANMC partnered with The Shrine of Remembrance to present A Symphony of Survival: Remembering the Vocal Orchestra which was performed at the Shrine Education Auditorium. The original Vocal Orchestra was formed in a prisoner-of-war-camp in Sumatra by two women, Margaret Dryburgh, a British missionary, and Norah Chambers, a music teacher. The women in the camp performed classical music pieces, including works by Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin, using only their voices to mimic the instruments. Betty Jeffrey was a member of the orchestra.

This concert was performed by the Ketones Choir and included pieces from the repertoire of the original Vocal Orchestra. Woven through the performance was a moving narrative presented by Emily Malone, great niece of Betty Jeffrey. Emily's deep connection to the story was palpable as she related the story of the nurses from the sinking of the Vyner Brooke to life in the camps. One of unimaginable horror, perseverance, ingenuity and great courage. The interaction between Emily and the beautiful singing by the Keytones Choir was amazing. The audience joined with the choir to sing the Captive's Hymn written by Margaret Dryburgh and sung at commemorative services all over the world. At the end of the performance the President invited relatives of the nurses and be acknowledged by the audience.

Our sincere Congratulations to the Keytones for their commitment to the task presented to them and the way they delivered with such love and dedication, especially to Jane Munroe Musical Director and Rose Capp Choir Manager for their many hours of rehearsals.

It was a pleasure working with Sue Burgess, Director Public Programs and Laura Thomas, Production Coordinator at The Shrine and our thanks to Liz Allwood for bringing this concert to fruition in a relatively short period of time. It was a huge success.

We were very pleased to have in attendance on the night, Kimberley Pierzchalski, City of Melbourne, Neighbourhood Partner East Melbourne and South Yarra. Mr John Berger, Member for Southern Metropolitan Melbourne, representing the Honourable Natalie Suleyman, Minister for Veterans and Lucy Saaroni representing Commodore Greg Yorke, Victorian Veterans Council, together with Emeritus Professor Judith Parker, Patron, Australian Nurses Memorial Centre. The project was supported by a City of Melbourne Connected Neighbourhood Small Grant.



Exciting News -Proposed Alumni Network

We are considering the commencement of an Alumni as a new initiative. We are hoping that such a group would serve to reconnect and engage our incredible community of former scholars. Whether you are a recent scholarship winner or were successful many years ago, we hope you might be interested in being part of an initiative to build a vibrant network.

What to Expect:

- Reconnect with scholarship winners from your year.
- Networking Opportunities: Attend events and join online forums and link with professionals in your field.
- Become a Champion for ANMC. Spread the narrative of a nurse who served ensuring their story is well known in the profession.
- Exclusive Events: Enjoy access to alumni only events, including reunions, webinars, and the like
- Mentorship Programs: Participate in mentorship opportunities with eminent clinicians and researchers.
- Become a Mentor yourself: assist prospective scholarship applicants to apply by being available to provide.

We are looking forward to getting this initiative off the ground, reconnecting with you and seeing the amazing things we can achieve together. Stay tuned for more updates, and don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of our growing alumni family!

Volunteering at the ANMC

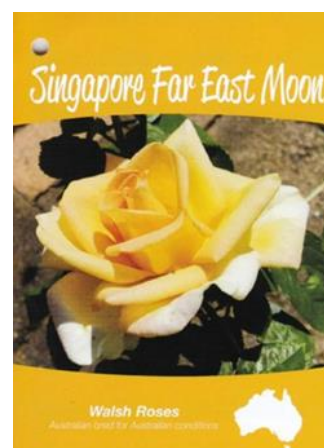
As a volunteer you'll have the opportunity to support the ANMC by assisting with specific projects, helping to organise events and/or joining a committee or the Board. If you have skills in marketing, fundraising, finance or office administration we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in being involved, please email a brief outline of your skills, experience and what it is you have to offer to admin@anmc.org.au

The Singapore Far East Moon Memorial Rose

The Singapore Far East Moon Memorial Rose is available for purchase again this year by mail order as a bare-rooted rose from Wagner's Rose Nursery in South Australia.

The rose is named for the Australian Army Nurses from the SS Vyner Brooke and is in memory of all Far East Prisoners of War and civilian internees. The lightly-scented bush rose is yellow to symbolize mateship and compassion, while the moon represents the moon seen each night by prisoners and their families at home.

Orders can be placed online on the Nursery website or contact Wagner's Rose Nursery, 20 Koorine Road, Kalangadoo, South Australia 5278, ph (08) 8739 3321, Email: hello@wagnersrosenursery.com.au



Welcome our New Board Member

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Deakin University - Mari Botti RN PhD AM to the Board.

Mari has had an academic career in nursing spanning over 40 years. She has led the establishment of successful research partnerships with health services (Alfred Health and Epworth HealthCare) since 1998, designed to develop multidisciplinary clinical research programs and build capacity for research within the nursing clinical workforce. She contributed extensively to the strategic direction of nursing research at Deakin University, provided supervision and mentorship for research and post-doctoral students and academic staff, and was Chair and Deputy Chair of the research and ethics committees of Deakin University, Alfred Health and Epworth HealthCare for over a decade.



In 2012, Deakin University Council conferred the title of 'Alfred Deakin Professor' to Mari in recognition of her outstanding, sustained high-level contribution to furthering the aims of Deakin University in relation to research. In 2016, she was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to nursing, and to medical education, as an academic and author, and to pain management research. Mari has been a member of the ANMC Scholarship Committee for over three years.

Book Launch "Courage, Be My Friend" by Jenny Davis

The ANMC is thrilled to host the book launch of 'Courage, Be My Friend' by Jenny Davis, and a special behind the scenes insight into '21 Hearts: Vivian Bullwinkel and the Nurses of the Vyner Brooke' - Jenny's sell-out stage play which inspired the book. Hosted by Georgina Banks, author of Back to Bangka, be part of the discussion as Jenny talks about her process of writing first a play, then a novel for young adult readers which deals with one of the most significant moments in our military history, the massacre of 21 Australian Army nurses on Radji Beach, Bangka Island in 1942, and the journey to freedom for those who endured three and a half years as prisoners of war.



Joining Jenny and Georgina will be Theatre 180 Executive Director and actor Rebecca Davis who will share her process of playing Vivian Bullwinkel, which an eminent figure in Australia's history. Together with Artistic Director Stuart Halusz, who will outline the journey of creating one of the most successful plays in Western Australia in recent times, they will also share their plans for touring this extraordinary story to the East Coast. **When:** Monday 19th August 6.00 – 8.00pm **Where:** ANMC Suite 11/431 St Kilda Road Melb (entrance in Slater St) **RSVP** info@theatre180.com.au by August 12th

News from ANMC History and Heritage Committee -

The Muntok Peace Museum

I am very pleased to report that the roof of the Muntok Peace Museum on Bangka Island has been replaced and the building is being repainted, following storm water damage. The Muntok Peace Museum was built in 2014 with contributions from WW2 prisoners' families, the family of Australia's Official Representative to Singapore Mr Vivian Bowden who was killed in Muntok on February 17, 1942, the Malayan Volunteers Group and the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia. A fundraising afternoon tea was held at the ANMC in 2014, which contributed to the building work.

The Muntok Peace Museum tells the story of the war years in Muntok and remembers the local population, victims lost in the bombing of over 100 boats carrying evacuees from Singapore, the Australian Army Nurses from the SS Vyner Brooke, civilian internees and all other war victims in this area.

The Muntok Peace Museum is built at Kampong Menjelang, Muntok, the site of the former WW2 Women's and Children's prison camp. The annual Bangka Island Memorial Service held each February 16 with Nurses' and civilian prisoners' families, the Australian, New Zealand and British Embassies and the Netherlands War Graves Foundation commences in the Muntok Peace Museum, followed by Services at the Nurses' Memorial at Tanjong Kelian Lighthouse and at Radji Beach.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the recent Museum repairs. The exhibits will be rehung and the Museum made ready for the Bangka Island Memorial Service next February. [Muntok Peace Museum](#) by Dr Judy Balcombe



Bangka Island Commemorative Service

On the 16th of February 2024 Judy Campbell and Arlene Bennett attended the annual Bangka Island Massacre Commemorative Services. The service this year was a little smaller than usual for various reasons. The Australian Embassy sent a large contingent of people this year. Steve Scott the Deputy Ambassador and Tom Pearce Minister Counsel and Consul General were in attendance are photographed with Judy and Arlene at the AANS Nurses Memorial. Steve Scott's grandfather was a Captain on the MATAHARI which was captured near Muntok. It was a very moving visit for him.

The great nephew of Rosetta Joan Wight, Rodney Pierce and his wife also joined the commemorative services held in and around Muntok. It was a lifelong dream of Rodney's to attend these services.



Muntok ANZAC Service

The first ANZAC service conducted on Bangka Island and Radji beach Indonesia by retired soldiers from DELTA Coy 5/7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. Earlier this year Mr Gabi Kiwarkis contacted me regarding an ANZAC Service to be held in Muntok this year. Mr Tim Stapleton and Ms Dwi Christanti represented the Australia Embassy in Indonesia.

A dinner was held at the Yasmin Hotel on the evening before ANZAC Day where I gave a presentation about the 65 nurses who left Singapore on the 12th of February 1942 and their fate, with photographs of each of the nurses who were lost at sea, the 21 who were massacred and the 8 who died in the camps. It is important for their faces be seen and be remembered. Early on the morning of the 25th of April we assembled at the Nurses' Memorial where the dawn service took place. I had the honour of giving the address at this service.

Following the service we returned to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we set out for Radji Beach. This time we held the service at the actual beach where 21 Australian Army Nursing Service were massacred along with 61 civilians and servicemen. The service was very moving and I gave the second address as Judy Balcombe was unable to come to Banka Island due to Covid-19. We all undertook the Walk For Humanity at the end of the service.



By Arlene Bennett

To view the ANZAC Commemorative service please visit the you tube link.

[Bangka Island ANZAC service 2024](#)



The ANMC is a registered charity. All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

All donations are gratefully accepted and contribute to our Scholarship fund.

[Donate to the ANMC Scholarship Fund](#)

VALE

Bernadette Keane FCNA, a valued and a well-known Melbourne Registered Nurse died on 27th May this year after a period of declining health. Bernadette had a career in nursing that spanned decades. She contributed significantly to her profession. Bernadette was respected as an educator in her specialty of psychiatric nursing.

In the mid-1980s Bernadette became a Nurse Consultant. She was a founding member and President for 5 years of 'Nurses in Independent Practice'. Through her business Bernadette provided education and career counselling. She was respected for her professional mentorship. As well as being a skilled teacher Bernadette was witty.



In 1983 Bernadette was awarded a W.K. Kellogg Nursing Fellowship to study at the *University of California San Francisco* which she considered a bedrock experience for her future career. In later years Bernadette worked for the nurse-owned business Ausmed. During retirement she volunteered one day per week for 8 years in the Nursing Archives of her *alma mater* St Vincents Hospital. A 'Celebration of Her Life' will be held on 10th August at the ANMC from 2pm to 4 pm.

Sue Ronaldson FCNA

ANMC office update

The Board accepted the resignation of Joseph Kennedy at the end of June. Joseph was dedicated to the stories of the nurses' during his time at the ANMC. We wish him every success for his future endeavours.

Any queries please feel free to contact Liz in the office 0429 602 144